

Amendments to the Claims:

This claim listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

- 1-15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently amended) A method for providing a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide with reduced side effects of splenomegaly and depletion of platelets when administered to a mammal, the method comprising modifying all CpG dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide wherein the modified CpG comprises a 2'-O-methyl C and/or G; and administering the oligonucleotide to the mammal ~~an oligonucleotide wherein all CpG dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide are modified~~, wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene for which inhibition of expression is desired, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene; ~~and wherein the modified CpG comprises a 2'-O-substituted CpG.~~
17. (Currently amended) A method for providing CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide with reduced side effects to an individual with a disease caused by aberrant gene expression, the method comprising modifying all CpG dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide wherein the modified CpG comprises a 2'-O-methyl C and/or G; and administering the oligonucleotide to an individual having the disease ~~an oligonucleotide wherein all CpG dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide are modified~~, wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene that is aberrantly expressed, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene; ~~and wherein the modified CpG comprises a 2'-O-substituted CpG.~~
18. (Currently amended) A method for reducing side effects of a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide administered to a mammal, comprising:
- (a) ~~providing a modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide wherein all the CpG dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide are modified, and wherein the modified CpG comprises a 2'-O-substituted CpG~~ modifying all CpG dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide wherein the modified CpG comprises a 2'-O-methyl C and/or G; and

- (b) administering the ~~modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate~~ oligonucleotide to the mammal,
- wherein administration of the modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide results in fewer side effects than the administration of an unmodified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide.
19. (New) A method for reducing side effects of a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide comprising modifying all CpG dinucleotides present in the oligonucleotide wherein the modified CpG comprises a 2'-O-methyl C and/or G.